

Conservation Security Program

What's in it for Me?

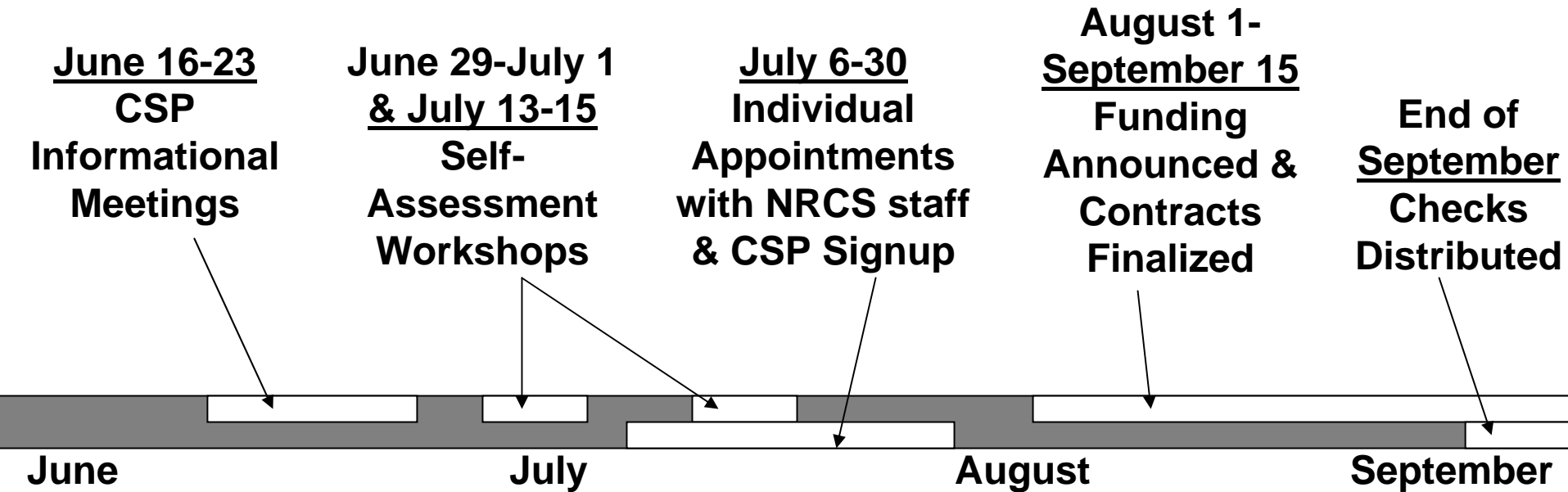
Purpose of this Meeting

- **To provide an overview of CSP**
- **To help you decide if you want to apply for CSP**
- **To help you identify rewards and requirements of CSP**
- **To outline next steps in the application process**

If You Are Interested in CSP

- **In coming weeks, plan to attend:**
 - **follow-up application workshops**
 - **one-on-one meetings with your local NRCS staff during the signup**

CSP Timeline



What is the Conservation Security Program (CSP)?

- CSP is a voluntary USDA program
- Designed for working agricultural lands
- Provides financial rewards to farmers and ranchers who are taking care of their land at the highest levels



CSP – We're Open for Business

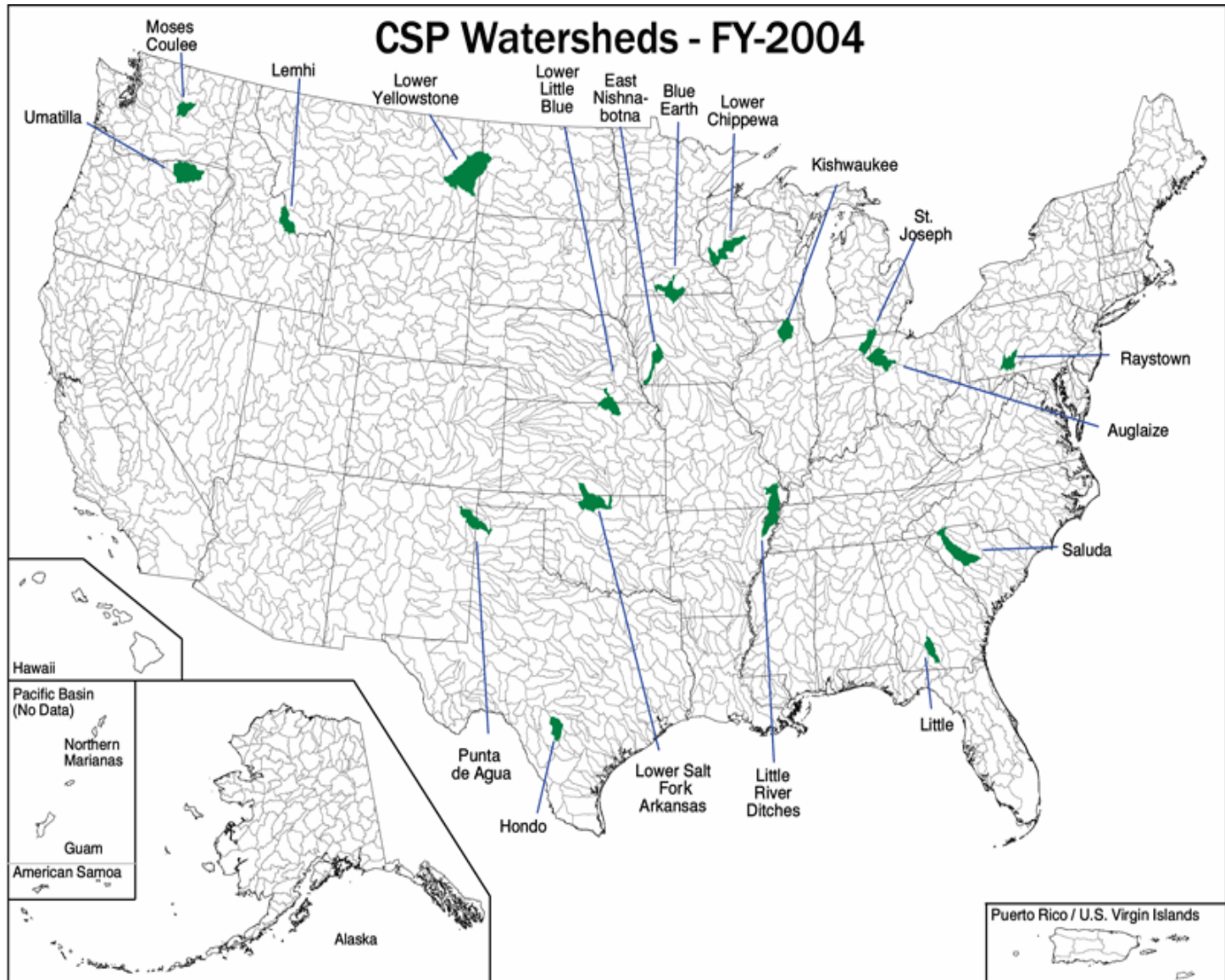
- **CSP completes the 2002 Farm Bill conservation portfolio**
- **Working Lands Programs:**
 - **CSP, EQIP, WHIP, GRP**
- **Retired Lands Programs:**
 - **WRP, CRP, FRPP**

The Watershed Approach

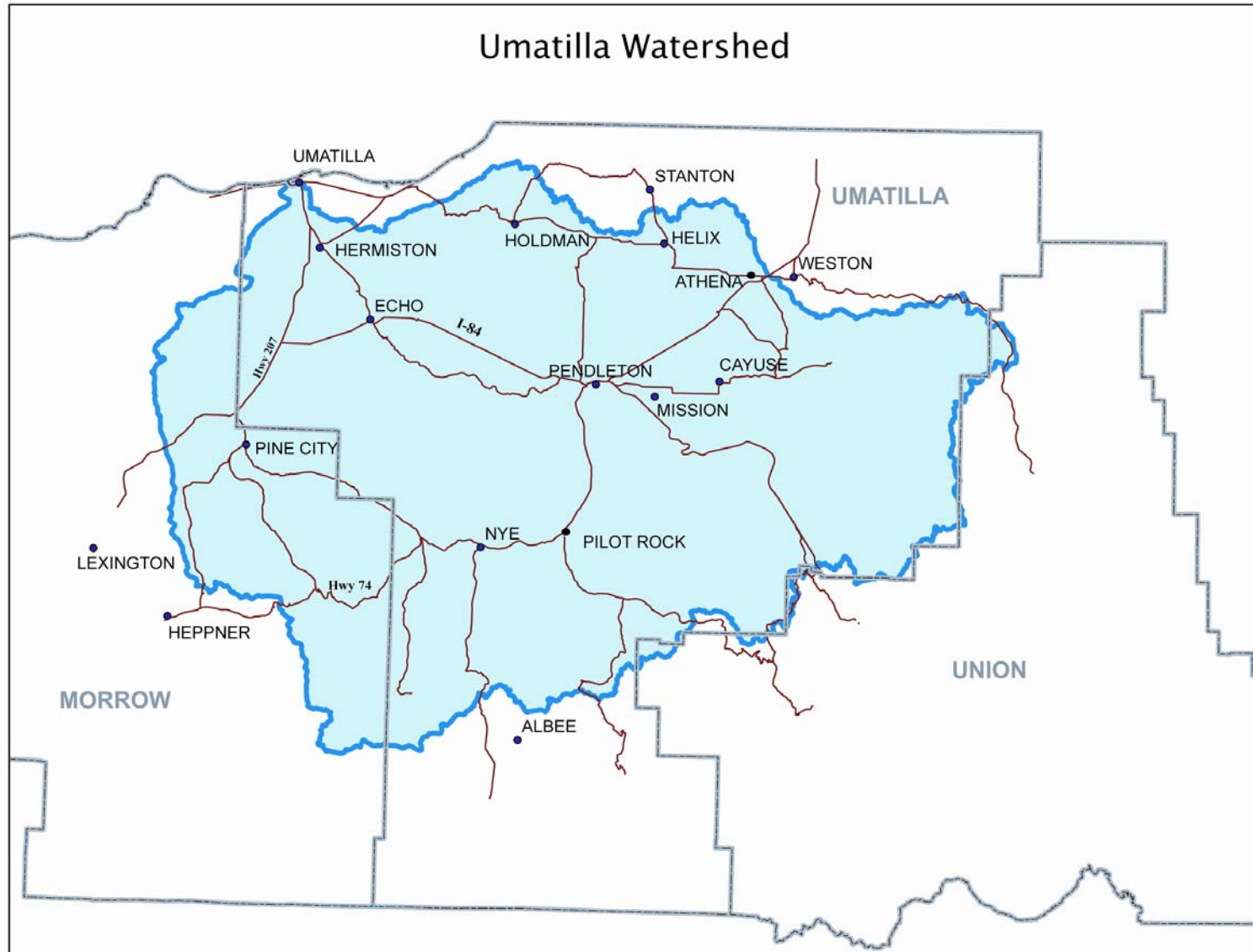
- The Umatilla Watershed is one of only 18 in the nation to be selected this year
- Funding limited to \$41 million nationally
- Limited timeline to complete signup



Nationally Selected Watersheds



Oregon's Umatilla Watershed



What are the Rewards of CSP?

- If your application is approved and selected, you receive:
 - A stewardship payment per acre
 - An existing practice payment
 - Payments for new practices, and
 - Enhancement payments



CSP Tiers

- The Tier in which you are eligible is a significant factor in the amount of funding you will receive

Tier	Resources Treated	Scope
I	Water & Soil Quality	Part of your operation
II	Water & Soil Quality	All of your operation
<i>Plus: Agree to address one additional resource concern</i>		
III	All Resource Concerns	All of your operation
<i>Plus: Agree to additional activities</i>		

CSP Contract Caps

- **In addition to the Tiers, there are also various contract caps that will be discussed in more detail later**

Who Gets Selected

- Those who apply will be placed in a category for funding based on:
 - Past conservation
 - Condition of the land enrolled
 - Future conservation
- Applicant information will be transmitted to national headquarters for selection

Rangeland Categories for Funding

Category	Criteria		
	Rangeland Health Assessment	Stewardship Practices and Activities (from list below) in place for two or more years	Actions to be completed by the third contract year
A	none to slight for all 3 attributes	Prescribed grazing plus 3 or more practices or activities in place, including brush management or range seeding resource needs adequately addressed	Agree to 1) move to next Tier or to complete two additional Stewardship Practices or Activities and 2) conduct on-farm project or assessment and evaluation activity
B	none to slight for all 3 attributes	Prescribed grazing plus 2 or more practices or activities in place and either brush management or range seeding resource needs adequately addressed	
C	none to slight for 2 attributes and slight to moderate for 1 attribute	Prescribed grazing plus 3 or more practices or activities in place and either brush management or range seeding resource needs adequately addressed	Agree to 1) complete two additional Stewardship Practices or Activities and 2) conduct on-farm project or assessment and evaluation activity
D	none to slight for 2 attributes and slight to moderate for 1 attribute	Prescribed grazing plus 2 or more practices or activities in place and either brush management or range seeding resource needs adequately addressed	
E	none to slight for 2 attributes and slight to moderate for 1 attribute	Prescribed grazing plus 2 or more practices or activities in place and either brush management or range seeding resource needs adequately addressed	Agree to complete two additional Stewardship Practices or Activities or conduct on-farm project or assessment and evaluation activity
F	none to slight for 1 attribute and slight to moderate for 2 attributes	Prescribed grazing plus 2 or more practices or activities in place	
G	slight to moderate for 2 attributes	Prescribed grazing plus 1 or more practices or activities in place	Agree to complete two additional Stewardship Practices or Activities
H	Must meet minimum program eligibility requirements as defined in 7CFR1469		Do not agree to do complete additional actions by the end of the third contract year

How Does Funding Selection Work?

- Applications will be selected for funding nationally beginning with Category A
- Applications will be selected in order by category until funds are depleted
- You will be notified by mail when selections are made



How Can I Apply?

- Determine if you are eligible
- If you don't already have one, receive a **USDA Identification Number** (also called a SCIMS number)
- Complete Self-Assessment
- Define your agricultural operation & select the tier in which you want to apply
- Meet with NRCS staff to confirm eligibility and determine category
- Submit your application



Am I Eligible?

- You must be an owner, operator, landlord, tenant, or sharecropper who shares in the risk of producing any crop or livestock, and is entitled to share in the crop or livestock available for marketing from a farm/ranch.**
- You must also have control of the land for the life of the contract.**

Is My Land Eligible?

- The majority of your land must be inside the Umatilla Watershed
- Eligible Lands
 - Private agricultural,
 - incidental, non-industrial forestland,
 - agricultural land that is tribal, allotted or Indian trust land
- Highly Erodible Land and Wetland determinations are required
- Ineligible Lands:
 - CRP, WRP, or GRP lands
 - Public lands
 - Land that was not part of a long-term rotation for 4 out of the last 6 years prior to May 13, 2002

Definition of an Ag Operation

- All agricultural land and other lands determined by the Chief, whether contiguous or noncontiguous, under the control of the participant and constituting a cohesive management unit, that is operated with equipment, labor, accounting system, and management that is substantially separate from any other.

Complete Self-Assessment

- You must complete a self-assessment to apply to:
 - Determine if you meet the criteria to participate
 - Document your stewardship work and prepare a benchmark inventory
- When complete, contact your local office to set up an appointment



Where Can I Get a Self-Assessment?

- **Available at your local NRCS office:**
 - Paper workbook
 - CD-ROM workbook
- **Available on-line:**
 - Interactive Self-Assessment Workbook
 - www.or.nrcs.usda.gov
(select Conservation Security Program)



Self-Assessment Workshops

- For those interested in applying for CSP
- Workshops will be held in late June & July
- Sign-up forms are available
- Bring conservation documentation for your farm/ranch



Self-Assessment Workshops

Sign up for a Self-Assessment Workshop to learn more about the Conservation Security Program application process.

June 29 – Pendleton

Pendleton Convention Center

8:30-Noon

Sponsored by Oregon Wheat Growers League

June 30 - Hermiston

Hermiston Community Center

8:30-Noon

Sponsored by Umatilla County Cattlemen's Association

July 1 - Heppner

Heppner Catholic Church

1:00-4:00 p.m.

Sponsored by Oregon Farm Bureau Federation

July 13 - Pendleton

Pendleton Convention Center

7:00-9:00 p.m.

July 14 - Hermiston

Hermiston Community Center

2:00-4:00 p.m.

July 15 - Athena

Athena Grade School

7:00-9:00 p.m.

Meet with NRCS Staff

- **Bring self-assessment workbook**
- **Confirm your existing conservation work**
- **Identify future conservation practices**
- **Determine the category that fits your land's condition, current and future conservation**
- **Submit your application**



CSP Contracts

- **If your farm is in:**
 - Tier I, your contract will be for 5 years
 - Tier II or III, your contract can run from 5-10 years
- **You may only submit one application per signup**
- **In future years, if you have an active CSP contract, you cannot submit a second application**



Rental Rates by Land Use for Umatilla Watershed

Land Use	Rental Rate
Irrigated Cropland	\$174
Dryland Cropland	\$40
Grazing Lands	\$13

Statutory Caps

Tier	Tier Reduction Factor (% of 2001 Rental Rate)	Total Contract Limit per year
I	5%	\$20,000
II	10%	\$35,000
III	15%	\$45,000

Caps in the CSP Rule

Tier	1. Stewardship Payment (Reduction Factor)	2. Existing Practice Payment	3. Enhancement Payment (50% or less of statutory limit)	Contract limit per acre for Pmts. 1-3 (% of rental rate)	New Practice Payment
I	\$5,000 (.25)	25% of steward- ship payment	\$10,000	15%	\$10,000 total for life of contract
II	\$10,500 (.50)		\$17,500	25%	
III	\$13,500 (.75)		\$22,500	40%	

Stewardship Payment Calculation

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Stewardship Payment} = & \\ & \text{Rental Rate} \times \text{Tier Reduction Factor} \\ & \times \text{Stewardship Reduction Factor} \times \\ & \text{Acres} \end{aligned}$$

Existing Practice Payment Calculation

$$\text{Existing Practice Payment} = \text{Stewardship Payment} \times .25$$

Enhancement Payment Calculation

- Calculated based on selected practices and activities
- Cannot exceed 50% of the statutory limit:
 - Tier I = $\$20,000 \times .5 = \$10,000$
 - Tier II = $\$35,000 \times .5 = \$17,500$
 - Tier III = $\$45,000 \times .5 = \$22,500$

Per Acre Limit Calculation

The sum of Stewardship, Existing and Enhancement Payments* cannot exceed (per acre):

- **Tier I = rental rate x .15**
- **Tier II = rental rate x .25**
- **Tier III = rental rate x .40**

*** does not include new practice payment**

New Practice Payment Calculation

- **Limited to 50% cost share**
- **Cannot exceed \$10,000 for the life of the contract**

Statutory Caps

Tier	Tier Reduction Factor (% of 2001 Rental Rate)	Total Contract Limit per year
I	5%	\$20,000
II	10%	\$35,000
III	15%	\$45,000

Irrigated Cropland Example

**130 acres of Cropland
at Tier I**

Irrigated Cropland Example

Per Acre

Tier	1. Annual Steward -ship Payment	2. Annual Existing Practice Payment (25% of uncapped column 1)	3. Annual Enhancement Payment* (50% or less of statutory limit)	Contract limit per acre for Pmts. 1-3 (% of rental rate)	New Practice Payment *
I	\$2.18	\$.55	\$10,000	\$26.10	\$10,000 total for life of contract
II	\$8.70	\$2.18	\$17,500	\$43.50	
III	\$19.58	\$4.89	\$22,500	\$69.60	

Tier I Irrigated Cropland Example

Stewardship Payment

$$\text{\$174} \times .05 \times .25 = \text{\$2.18/acre}$$



Rental
Rate



Tier
Factor



Stewardship
Factor

$$\times 130 \text{ acres} = \text{\$282.75} *$$

*Subject to Cap

Tier I Irrigated Cropland Example

Existing Practice Payment

$$\text{\$282.75} \times .25 = \text{\$70.69} *$$



**Stewardship
Payment**



**Existing
Practice
Factor**

***Subject to Cap**

Tier I Irrigated Cropland Example

Enhancement Payment

Selected Practices = \$750 +

Selected Activities = \$750

Total = \$1,500*

***Subject to Cap**

Tier I Irrigated Cropland Example

New Practice Payment

Cost-share payment for 1st year's
selected practices

= \$4,500 *

*Subject to Cap

Dryland Cropland Example

**3,000 acres of Cropland
at Tier II**

Dryland Cropland Example

Per Acre

Tier	1. Annual Steward -ship Payment	2. Annual Existing Practice Payment (25% of uncapped column 1)	3. Annual Enhancement Payment* (50% or less of statutory limit)	Contract limit per acre for Pmts. 1-3 (% of rental rate)	New Practice Payment *
I	\$.50	\$.13	\$10,000	\$6.00	\$10,000 total for life of contract
II	\$2.00	\$.50	\$17,500	\$10.00	
III	\$3.00	\$.75	\$22,500	\$16.00	

Tier II Dryland Cropland Example

Stewardship Payment

$$\text{\$40} \times .10 \times .50 = \text{\$2.00/acre}$$



Rental
Rate



Tier
Factor



Stewardship
Factor

$$\times 3,000 \text{ acres} = \text{\$6,000}^*$$

*Subject to Cap

Tier II Dryland Cropland Example

Existing Practice Payment

$$\text{\$6,000} \times .25 = \text{\$1,500} *$$



Stewardship
Payment



Existing
Practice
Factor

***Subject to Cap**

Tier II Dryland Cropland Example

Enhancement Payment

Selected Practices = \$7,000 +

Selected Activities = \$5,500

Total = \$12,500 *

***Subject to Cap**

Tier II Dryland Cropland Example

New Practice Payment

**Cost-share payment for 1st year's
selected practices**

= \$12,000 *

***Subject to Cap**

Grazing Land Example

**6,000 acres of
Rangeland at Tier III**

Grazing Land Example

Tier	1. Annual Steward- ship Payment	2. Annual Existing Practice Payment (25% of uncapped column 1)	3. Annual Enhancement Payment* (50% or less of statutory limit)	Contract limit per acre for Pmts. 1-3 (% of rental rate)	New Practice Payment *
I	\$.16	\$.04	\$10,000	\$1.95	\$10,000 total for life of contract
II	\$.65	\$.16	\$17,500	\$3.25	
III	\$1.46	\$.37	\$22,500	\$5.20	

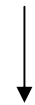
Tier III Grazing Land Example

Stewardship Payment

$$\text{\$13} \quad \times \quad .15 \quad \times \quad .75 = \text{\$1.46/acre}$$



Rental
Rate



Tier
Factor



Stewardship
Factor

$$\times 6,000 \text{ acres} = \text{\$8,775} *$$

*Subject to Cap

Tier III Grazing Land Example

Existing Practice Payment

$$\text{\$8,775} \times .25 = \text{\$2,193.75} *$$



**Stewardship
Payment**



**Existing
Practice
Factor**

***Subject to Cap**

Tier III Grazing Land Example

Enhancement Payment

Selected Practices = \$7,000 +

Selected Activities = \$5,000

Total = \$12,000 *

***Subject to Cap**

Tier III Grazing Land Example

New Practice Payment

**Cost-share payment for 1st year's
selected practices**

= \$10,000 *

***Subject to Cap**

What are the Requirements of CSP?

- **If you are selected to participate in CSP, you must:**
 - **Implement the contract as signed**
 - **Maintain at least the level of stewardship you identified in your self-assessment**
 - **Implement and maintain any new practices you agree to in your contract**
 - **NOT conduct any practices that defeat the purposes of the contract**



CSP Checklist

CSP Eligibility, Qualification & Application Steps

Oregon Natural Resources Conservation Service



*You've been
taking care
of natural
resources
on your
land for
years...*

*...now,
you have a
chance to be
financially
rewarded
for your
work.*

You've decided you want to apply for the Conservation Security Program (CSP). Now what?

Once you've determined you are interested in CSP, you need to complete a number of steps to determine if you meet the basic eligibility criteria and if you are qualified for the program. Individuals who have an existing resource management system (RMS)-level plan with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) may have already completed a number of these steps. Check with your local NRCS office to determine which steps you need to complete.

Complete the Self-Assessment Workbook

A self-assessment is required to apply for CSP. With limited funding available in this year's sign-up, only those individuals who have an outstanding conservation track record will be funded. The self-assessment workbook helps you determine your basic eligibility for CSP, and walks you through a number of steps to determine whether you qualify. Self-assessment workbooks are available at your local NRCS office or at NRCS Informational meetings or online at www.or.nrcs.usda.gov. Select Conservation Security Program.

Self-Assessment Workshops

NRCS will be holding Self-Assessment workshops from June 29 - July 1 and from July 13-15. If you are interested in participating in a self-assessment workshop, please contact your local NRCS office.

Get a USDA Identification Number

If you have worked with USDA farm programs in the past, you most likely have a USDA Identification Number (also referred to as a SCIMS number). If you do not have a USDA Identification number, the process is very simple. Just contact your local NRCS office to set up a time to receive a number.

Gather Appropriate Records and Documentation

Many of the questions in the self-assessment require documentation. For example, if you have rangeland, you are required to have five years of grazing records. Page 40 of the self-assessment workbook contains documentation examples. You will need both your self-assessment and the required documentation when you meet with your local NRCS office to submit your application. You also need to bring a copy of pages 3-16 of the self-assessment with you.



Conservation Security Program



Oregon Natural
Resources Conservation
Service

Meet with your local NRCS Staff

Once you have completed your self-assessment make an appointment with your local NRCS office by using the contact numbers on the right. They will confirm the information in your self-assessment and help you identify future work you would like to complete to conserve resources on your land.

Based on this information, your local NRCS staff will determine the category in which you are eligible. They will then help you finalize your Conservation Stewardship Plan.

Submit Your Conservation Stewardship Plan

Your plan will be submitted to the NRCS National Headquarters, where funding selections will be made. All applications in Category A will be funded first, followed by categories B, C, etc. until this year's funds for the program are depleted. You will be notified by mail once selections are made.

Complete Your Conservation Stewardship Contract

If you are selected, you will also be contacted by your local NRCS office to finalize and sign your Conservation Stewardship Contract. The first year's payments will be made prior to September 30, 2004.

**For more information,
contact your local
NRCS field office**

Pendleton
541-278-8049 ext. ____

Heppner
541-676-5021 ext. 109

Mission
541-966-2325

or...check out
www.or.nrcs.usda.gov

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Thank you for joining us

For further information:

Pendleton – (541) 278-8049

Heppner – (541) 676-5021

Mission – (541) 966-2325

www.or.nrcs.usda.gov